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# SCOTT'S LAW

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## Let's Protect Those Who Protect Us

Larry G. Trent, Director
Douglas W. Brown, First Deputy Director

# Scott's Law

In December 2001, Lieutenant Scott Gillen of the Chicago Fire Department was assisting at a crash when he was struck and killed by an intoxicated driver on the Dan Ryan Expressway.

Since 1998, there have been **162 crashes** involving motorists vs. Illinois State Troopers, **88 parked Trooper vehicle crashes**, and **65 crashes** resulting in the injury of Troopers and motorists.

During the past four years, reckless motorists have killed more than **200** police officers nationwide.

**Scott's Law** mandates that upon approaching a stationary authorized *emergency vehicle, displaying flashing warning lights*, a person who drives an approaching vehicle shall yield the right-of-way by making a lane change if it is safe to do so, or shall reduce speed and proceed with caution if changing lanes would be impossible or unsafe.

Also, upon entering a construction or maintenance zone when workers are present, a motorist shall proceed with due caution, making a lane change into a lane not adjacent to that of the workers present or if changing lanes would be impossible or unsafe, to reduce speed to maintain a safe speed for road conditions.

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**Illinois Compiled State Statute**
**625 ILCS 5/11-907**

*Operation of vehicles and streetcars on approach of authorized emergency vehicles states:*

Upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle making use of audible and visual signals meeting the requirements of this Code or a police vehicle properly and lawfully making use of an audible or visual signal, the driver of every other vehicle shall yield the right-of-way and shall immediately drive to a position parallel to, and as close as possible to, the right-hand edge or curb of the highway clear of any intersection and shall, if necessary to permit the safe passage of the emergency vehicle, stop and remain in such position until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed, unless otherwise directed by a police officer.

A person in violation of Scott's Law commits a **business offense** punishable by a fine of not more than $10,000.

Scott's Law also provides that it is a factor in aggravation if the person committed the offense while under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or intoxicating compounds. If this is the case, a person's driving privileges shall be:

Suspended for 90 days to one year if the violation results in **damage** to the property of another person;

180 days to 2 years if the violation results in **injury** to another person;

2 years if the violation results in the **death** of another person.

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3107 East Lincolnway, 61081-1712

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